THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government has had the report prepared by the North East Congress (I) Coordination Committee examined by the Central Electricity Authority. While the North East Region has a large hydro based electricity potential of 31,857 MW at 60% load factor, the exploitation of the same has been slow due to logistics, environmental considerations and lack of substantial financial resources which are required for the fuller exploitation of the potential.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, in so far as the coal rich Eastern Region is concerned a number of thermal generating units having an installed capacity of 9462.58 MW have already been set up and many other units have already been sanctioned for fuller utilisation of coal reserves available there.

(e) At present 489.84 MW of installed capacity in the North-Eastern Region is under operation and hydro projects having capacity of 739 MW are under construction. In addition the private power policy of Government of India enunciated in 1991 has been modified in January, 1995 to provide further incentives for new hydro generating units all over India including the North-East Region.

Decline in power generation by NTPC due to coal shortage

3454. SHRI NILOPTAL BASU:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had lost a generation of about 1959 million Units during April-October, 1994, due to shortage of coal;

(b) whether Coal India Limited was approached by NTPC or Ministry of Power for augmentatton of the supply; if so, what has been Coal India's response to the same; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there had been a loss of Plant Load Factor of 3.25 per cent. because of shortage of coal; if so, what action is being taken to tide over this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The loss of generation during April-October, 1994 due to shortage of coal in the thermal power plants of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was 1949 million units.

(b) Yes, Sir. The response from Coal India was favourable, but the cool supply could not be augmented during the period because of unprecedented rains.

(c) During April-October, 1994, the loss of Plant Load Factor (PLF) in NTPC's coal-based stations on account of shortage of coal was 3.28 per cent.

The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Coal, Coal companies as well as with the Cabinet Secretariat during review meeting. NTPC has been pursuing with the Ministry of Coal and coal companies for augmenttng despatches to build sufficient stock to tide over such problems in the coming months.

Electro-static Precipitators

3455. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 204 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether a representative of M/s. Ansaldo, the supplier of boiler of Unit IV was also a member of the enquiry committte;

(b) if so, what is the reason therefor?